

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of adhering a floor covering, comprising:
applying an aqueous composition to said floor covering; and
installing the floor covering;
wherein said An aqueous composition, comprising comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, Mn, of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000; and

wherein said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer; and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler; and

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μ m, a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μ m and a combination thereof;

wherein said polymer further comprises a monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₁₀-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, a (meth)acrylamide and its N-C₁-C₄-alkyl-substituted derivative, an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, a monoester of a dicarboxylic acid and an anhydride a dicarboxylic acid.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 80 to 100% by weight in said polymer.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 90 to 99.8% by weight in said polymer.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said aqueous composition has having 10 to 45% by weight of said polymer and 55 to 90% by weight of said filler.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said aqueous composition has having 60 to 85% by weight of said filler.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer comprises at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate, a vinyl ester of a carboxylic acid having up to 20 carbon atoms, a vinylaromatic compound having up to 20 carbon atoms, an ethylenically unsaturated nitrile, a vinyl halide and a nonaromatic hydrocarbon having at least 2 conjugated double bonds.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 40% by weight.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 20% by weight.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0.2 to 10% by weight.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the gel content of the polymer is more than 5% and less than 20% by weight.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, where the polymer is present in the form of an aqueous dispersion with a concentration of from 40 to 75%.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, where a content of a volatile organic compound having a boiling point at 1 bar of less than 300°C is less than 0.5% by weight, based on said aqueous composition.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein a glass transition temperature of the polymer is from -50°C to +20°C.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous-composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -35 to 20°C.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous-composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -30 to 0°C.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous-composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -28 to -5°C.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous-composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, a dispersant, a defoamer and a preservative.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27 9, wherein said floor covering is selected from the group consisting of a carpet made of polyvinyl chloride, a floor covering made of polyvinyl chloride, a foam covering with a textile backing, a polyester nonwoven, a rubber covering, a textile covering with a backing of polyurethane foam, styrene-butadiene foam, or a secondary textile backing, a needlefelt floor covering, a polyolefin covering, and a linoleum covering.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method of bonding a substrate, comprising:

applying the an aqueous composition as claimed in Claim 9 to said substrate; and

bonding the substrate to a carrier;

wherein said aqueous composition comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, Mn, of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000; and

wherein said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer; and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler; and

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μ m, a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μ m and a combination thereof;

wherein said polymer further comprises a monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₁₀-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, a (meth)acrylamide and its N-C₁-C₄-alkyl-substituted derivative, an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, a monoester of a dicarboxylic acid and an anhydride a dicarboxylic acid.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 31, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of wood, concrete, a ceramic tile, and a metal substrate.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method of adhering a floor covering, comprising:
applying an aqueous composition to said floor covering; and
installing the floor covering;
wherein said ~~An~~ aqueous composition, ~~comprising~~ comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, M_n , of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000; and

wherein said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer; and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler; and

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μm , a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μm and a combination thereof;

wherein a content of a volatile organic compound having a boiling point at 1 bar of less than 300°C is less than 0.5% by weight, based on said aqueous composition.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 80 to 100% by weight in said polymer.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 90 to 99.8% by weight in said polymer.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said aqueous composition has ~~having~~ 10 to 45% by weight of said polymer and 55 to 90% by weight of said filler.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said aqueous composition has ~~having~~ 60 to 85% by weight of said filler.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer comprises at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate, a vinyl ester of a carboxylic acid having up to 20 carbon atoms, a vinylaromatic compound having up to 20 carbon atoms, an ethylenically unsaturated nitrile, a vinyl halide and a nonaromatic hydrocarbon having at least 2 conjugated double bonds.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer further comprises a monomer unit selected from the group consisting

of a C₁-C₁₀-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, a (meth)acrylamide and its N-C₁-C₄-alkyl-substituted derivative, an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, a monoester of a dicarboxylic acid and an anhydride a dicarboxylic acid.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 42, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 40% by weight.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 42, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 20% by weight.

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 42, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0.2 to 10% by weight.

46. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the gel content of said polymer is more than 5% and less than 20% by weight.

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, where the polymer is present in the form of an aqueous dispersion with a concentration of from 40 to 75%.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein a glass transition temperature of the polymer is from -50°C to +20°C.

49. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -35 to 20°C.

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -30 to 0°C.

51. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -28 to -5°C.

52. (Currently Amended) The ~~aqueous composition~~ method as claimed in Claim 36, further comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, a dispersant, a defoamer and a preservative.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~53~~ 36, wherein said floor covering is selected from the group consisting of a carpet made of polyvinyl chloride, a floor covering made of polyvinyl chloride, a foam covering with a textile backing, a polyester nonwoven, a rubber covering, a textile covering with a backing of polyurethane foam, styrene-butadiene foam, or a secondary textile backing, a needlefelt floor covering, a polyolefin covering, and a linoleum covering.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) A method of bonding a substrate, comprising:

applying ~~the~~ an aqueous composition ~~as claimed in Claim 36~~ to said substrate; and
bonding the substrate to a carrier;

wherein said aqueous composition comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and
a number-average molecular weight, Mn, of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than
30,000; and

wherein said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl
(meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total
weight of said polymer; and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the
weight sum of the polymer and of the filler; and

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average
particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μ m, a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of
from 3 to 50 μ m and a combination thereof;

wherein a content of a volatile organic compound having a boiling point at 1 bar of
less than 300°C is less than 0.5% by weight, based on said aqueous composition.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein said substrate is
selected from the group consisting of wood, concrete, a ceramic tile, and a metal substrate.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Canceled)